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I.—*History of the Gurha Mundala Rájas. By Captain W. H. SLEEMAN, Commissioner for the suppression of Thuggee in the Nerbudda Provinces.*

The dominions of the *Gurha Mundala* or sovereigns extended before the death of SUNGRÁM SA', in the year A. D. 1530, over fifty-two districts, containing each from three hundred and fifty to seven hundred and fifty villages, and collectively, no less than thirty-two thousand two hundred and eighty, as exhibited in the annexed geographical table. But the greater part of these districts were added to their dominions by the conquests of that prince, and their previous history I shall not here attempt to trace.

These princes trace back their origin in the person of JADOO RAE to the year *Samvat*, 415, or A. D. 358, when by the death of his father-in-law, the Gond rája NAGDEO, he succeeded to the throne of *Gurha. Mundala* was added to their dominion by GOPA'L SA', the tenth in descent from that prince, about the year A. D. 634 in the conquest of the district of *Marroogurh* from the Gond chiefs, who had succeeded to the ancient *Haihaibunsi* sovereigns of *Rutunpore* and *Lahnjee*. That this ancient family of Rajpoots, who still reign at these places, reigned over *Mundala* up to the year A. D. 144 or *Samvat*, 201, was ascertained from an inscription in copper dug up during the reign of NIZA'M SA' (which began A. D. 1749) in the village of *Dearee* in the vicinity of that place. This inscription was in Sanskrit upon a copper plate of about two feet square, and purported to convey, as a free religious gift from a sovereign of the *Haihaibunsi* family, the village of *Dearee* in which it was found, to DEODATT a brahman, and his heirs for ever. NIZA'M SA' was very anxious to restore the village to one of the descendants of this man, but no trace whatever could be found of his family. The plate was

preserved in the palace with the greatest care up to the year 1780, when it was lost in the pillage of the place by the Saugor troops, and all search for it has since proved fruitless. There are, however, several highly respectable men still living who often saw it, and have a perfectly distinct recollection of its contents. How and when the Gonds succeeded this family in the sovereignty of *Mundala* we are never likely to learn; nor would it be very useful to inquire.

This family of *Haihaibunsis* reigned over *Lahnjee*, formerly called *Chumpanuttu*; *Rutunpore*, formerly called *Monepore*; *Mundala*, formerly called *Muhikmuttee*, (*Mahikmati*), and *Sumbulpore*, (*Sambhalpur*.)

The *Gurha Mundala* dynasty boast a Rajpoot origin, though they are not recognized to be genuine. Tradition says a soldier of fortune from *Kandiesh*, JADOO RAE\* entered the service of one of the *Haihaibunsi* sovereigns of *Lahnjee*, and accompanied him on a pilgrimage to the source of the *Nerbudda* at *Amurkuntuk*. One night while standing sentry over the prince's tent he saw three Gonds, two men and a woman, pass, followed by a large monkey of the sacred or Hunooman tribe; and as they passed the monkey looked in his face and dropped some peacock's feathers, which he took up and brought home with him when relieved from his post. On falling asleep the goddess *Nerbudda* (*Narmada*) appeared to him, and told him that the people he had seen were not, as he supposed Gonds, but the god RÁM, his consort SÍTÁ, and his brother LUCHMUN; that the Hunooman was the faithful follower of the god, and the feathers he had dropped were to signify, that he should one day attain to sovereign power. He was at the same time told to visit SURBHEE PARTUK, a brahman recluse, who lived at *Ramnugur*, near *Tilwara ghat* in the vicinity of *Gurha*, and consult with him on all occasions of difficulty, as his spiritual guide.

Immediately after this vision, JADOO RAE quitted the service of the *Lahnjee* prince, and proceeded to the brahman recluse at *Ramnugur*; but on entering upon an explanation of his motive for visiting him, was very much surprised to hear him say, that he was perfectly well acquainted with his motive, as the goddess had appeared to him also and informed him of his great destiny. He then took him into the middle of the river *Nerbudda*, and there made him swear by the sacred stream, that if he ever attained sovereignty he would appoint him to the office of prime minister. This being done he recommended JADOO RAE to proceed, and offer his services to the Gond rája

\* JADOO RAE (JADU RA'YA) the son of JUD SING patel of the village of *Sehlgow* about 20 coss the other side of the *Godaweree* river some say.

of *Gurha*, and to use every effort to recommend himself to his notice and gain esteem.

This rája had only one child, a daughter named *RUTNABULEE*, (*RATNAVALI'*;) and finding himself declining and without the hope of a son, he consulted his chief officers and priests on the choice of a son-in-law, and successor to the throne. He was recommended to leave the choice with God; and to ascertain his will it was suggested, that he should assemble as great a multitude as he could on the bank of the river, and in the midst release a blue jay\*. Should the bird alight on the head of any man present, he might be assured that he had been chosen by Heaven to succeed him. The suggestion pleased the prince, and he immediately put the plan into execution. The bird was released by him on the day appointed, in the midst of an immense concourse of people; and it alighted on the head of the young adventurer, who, having some scruples of conscience on the ground of the young princess' inferiority of caste, was reconciled to the marriage by his spiritual guide. Those who wish the descendants to be considered pure Rajpoots declare that he never cohabited with this princess; and that his son by a former wife succeeded him in the government; but indifferent people believe, that he had no other wife, and that his son by her was his successor on the throne of the Gond rája of *Gurha*. This rája died in the year *Samvat*, 415, A. D. 358, and was succeeded by his son-in-law *JADOO RAE*.

However absurd we may consider the popular belief in the vision, there is nothing at all improbable in the story of the bird, which was likely enough to have been trained up for the purpose by the young adventurer himself and his spiritual guide, who could have found little difficulty in persuading a weak and superstitious old prince to have recourse to such a means of learning the will of heaven with regard to the important choice of a husband for his daughter, and a successor to his throne. The princes of this house are all considered to have Rajpoot blood in them; and some of the most needy of their subjects of that proud caste, condescended to allow their daughters to marry the reigning princes, though very rarely a member of one of the collateral branches of that family.

When *JADOO RAE* succeeded his father-in-law on the throne he appointed, agreeably to his promise, *SURBHEE PARTUK* as his prime minister, and we have some good grounds to believe, what is altogether singular in the history of mankind, that the descendants of the

\* The blue jay is held sacred by the Hindus, as an embodied emanation from the god *SIVA* or *MAHA'DEO*.

one reigned as sovereigns of the country for a period of fourteen hundred years up to the Saugor conquest in *Samvat* 1838, or A. D. 1781; and that the descendants of the other held the office and discharged the duties of chief ministers for the same period. Among the sovereigns during this time, there are said to have been fifty generations, and sixty-two successions to the throne; and among the ministers only forty generations. This would give to each reign something less than twenty-three years. In 1260 years France had only sixty-three kings; or one every twenty years\*.

I shall here give a list of the sovereigns with the number of years each is said to have reigned†. This list as far as the reign of PREM NARAIN, the 53rd of this line, is found engraven in Sanskrit upon a stone in a temple built by the son and successor of that prince at *Ramnugur* near *Mundala*. It is said to have been extracted from records to which the compiler, JYGOBIND BAJPAE, had access; and good grounds to rely on the authenticity of this record for above a thousand years may be found in the inscriptions on the different temples built by the several princes of this house, bearing dates which correspond with it; and in the collateral history of the Mahomedans and others who invaded these territories during their reign. The inscription on the stone runs thus "Friday the 29th of Jet, in the year *Samvat*, 1724, (A. D. 1667,) the prince HIRDEE SA' reigning, the following is written by SUDA SEO, at the dictation of JYGOBIND BAJPAE, and engraved by SINGH SA', DYA RAM, and BHAGI RUTEE."

As an instance which collateral history furnishes in proof of the authenticity of this record, it may be stated, that FERISHTA places the invasion of *Gurha* by ASUF in the year *Hidgerree*, 972, or A. D. 1564; and states, that the young prince, BEER NARAIN, had then attained his eighteenth year. The inscription on the stone would place the death of DULPUT SA', his father, in *Samvat* 1605, or A. D. 1548, as it gives 1190 years to the forty-nine reigns, and the first reign commenced in 415. The young prince is stated to have reigned fifteen years; and tradition represents him as three years of age at his father's death. This would make him 18 precisely, and add to 1548, would place the invasion 1563, A. D.

\* In one hundred and sixty years Rome had no less than seventy Cæsars. In two hundred and fifty years the Mamelukes had in Egypt forty-seven sovereigns; and a reign terminated only with a life. The Goths had in Spain in three hundred years thirty-two kings.

† We have not altered the system of orthography followed by the author, although at variance with Sir W. JONES' scheme, because there are some names for which we should be at a loss to find the classical equivalents.—ED.

	Years.		Years.
1 Jadoo Rae, An. Sam.	415,	33 Bhartea Chund, his son,	reigned, 22
reigned,.....	5	34 Mudun Singh, ditto,.....	20
2 Madhoo Singh, his son, ..	33	35 Okur Seyn, ditto,.....	36
3 Jugurnáth, ditto,.....	25	36 Ram Subee, ditto,.....	24
4 Ragonáth, ditto,.....	64	37 Tarachund, ditto,.....	34
5 Roder Deo, ditto,.....	28	38 Deee Singh, ditto,..	15
6 Beharee Singh, ditto,.....	31	39 Bhun Mitter, ditto,.....	16
7 Nursing Deo, ditto,.....	33	40 Bhowany Das, ditto,.....	12
8 Sooraj Bhan, ditto,.....	29	41 Seo Singh, ditto,.....	26
9 Bús Deo, ditto,.....	18	42 Hurnaraen, ditto,.....	6
10 Gopál Sa, ditto,.....	21	43 Subul Singh, ditto,.....	29
11 Bhopál Sa ditto,.....	10	44 Raj Sing, ditto,.....	31
12 Gopeenáth, ditto,.....	37	45 Dadee Rae, ditto,.....	37
13 Rámchund, ditto,.....	13	46 Goruk Das†, ditto,.....	26
14 Soortan Singh, ditto,.....	29	47 Arjun Singh, ditto,.....	32
15 Hureehur Deo, ditto,.....	17	48 Sungram Sa, ditto,.....	50
16 Kishun Deo, ditto,.....	14	49 Dulput Sa, ditto,.....	18
17 Jugut Sing, ditto,.....	9	50 Beernaraen, ditto,.....	15
18 Muha Sing, ditto,.....	23	51 Chunder Sa, his paternal uncle,	12
19 Doorjun Mul, ditto,.....	19	52 Mudkur Sa, his son,.....	20
20 Jeskurun, ditto,.....	36	53 Prem Naraen, ditto,.....	11
21 Pertapadit, ditto,.....	24	54 Hirdee Sa, ditto,.....	71
22 Juschund, ditto,.....	14	55 Chutter Sa, ditto,.....	7
23 Munohur Singh, ditto,.....	29	56 Kesuree Sa, ditto,.....	3
24 Gobind Singh, ditto,.....	25	57 Nurind Sa, ditto,.....	44 or 54
25 Ramchund, ditto,.....	21	58 Mohraj Sa, ditto,.....	11
26 Kurun*, ditto,.....	16	59 Seoraj Sa, ditto,.....	7
27 Rutun Seyn, ditto,.....	21	60 Doorjun Sa, ditto,.....	2
28 Kumul Nyne, ditto,.....	30	61 Nizam Sa, his paternal uncle,	27
29 Beer Singh, ditto,.....	7	62 Nurhur Sa, his nephew, son of Dhun	
30 Nurhur Deo, ditto,.....	26	Singh, brother of Nizam Sa, but of a	
31 Troo Bobun Rae, ditto,.....	28	different mother,.....	3
32 Prethee Rae, ditto,.....	21	63 Somere Sa, ditto, 9 months.	

At the close of the reign of SUNGRA'M SA' the dominion of the *Gurha Mundala* rájas extended over fifty-two districts, but it is believed that he received from his father only three or four of these districts. This prince formed near the city of *Gurha* the great reservoirs called, after himself, the *Sungram Saugor*; and built on the bank of it the temple called the *Beejuna mut*, dedicated to БНУКО, the god of truth. Tradition says that a religious mendicant of the Sunneeasee sect took up his residence in this temple soon after it had been dedicated, with the intention to assassinate the prince in fulfilment of a vow he had made to offer up the blood of a certain number of sovereigns in sacrifice to SEWA, or the god of destruction. Taking advantage of the superstitious and ambitious feelings of SUNGRA'M SA',

\* He built the temple and other works near *Teoree* whose ruins still bear his name. *Teoree* is four miles from *Gurha*, and six from *Jabulpore*. There is a stone inscribed by rája KURUN on the dedication of a temple at *Jabulpore*, dated *Samvat*, 943, A. D. 886.

† He built the town of *Goruckpore* near *Jabulpore*, and another of the same name in *Burgee*.

he persuaded him that he could by certain rites and ceremonies so propitiate the deity, to whom he had dedicated the temple, as to secure his aid in extending his conquests over all the neighbouring states. These rites and ceremonies were to be performed at night when no living soul but himself and the prince might be present; and after he had in several private conferences possessed himself of the entire confidence of the prince, he appointed the night and the hour when the awful ceremonies were to take place.

Just as SUNGRA'M SA' was at midnight preparing to descend from his palace to the temple, one of his domestics entered his apartment, and told him that he had watched this Sunneese priest very closely for some time, and from the preparations he was now making he was satisfied that he intended to assassinate him. He prayed to be allowed to be present at the ceremony, but this the prince refused, and descended to the temple alone but armed with a sword under his cloak, and prepared against treachery. After some trifling preparations the priest requested him to begin the awful ceremony by walking thrice round a fire over which was placed a boiling cauldron of oil, and then falling prostrate before the god; but while he was giving these instructions the prince perceived under his garment a naked sword which confirmed the suspicions of his faithful servant. "In solemn and awful rites like these," said the prince, "it is no doubt highly important that every ceremony should be performed correctly, and I pray you to go through them first." The priest did so, but after going thrice round the fire, he begged the prince to go through the simple ceremony of prostrating himself thrice before the idol, repeating each time certain mystical phrases. He was desired to go through this part of the ceremony also. He did so, but endeavouring to conceal the sword while he prostrated himself, the prince was satisfied of his atrocious design, and with one cut of his scimitar severed his head from his body. The blood spouted from the headless trunk upon the image of the god of truth, which starting into life cried out "many, many, ask, ask!" The prince prostrating himself said, "give me I pray thee victory over all my enemies as thou hast given it me over this miscreant." He was directed to adopt a brown flag, to turn loose a jet black horse from his stable, and to follow him whithersoever he might lead. He did so, and secure dominion over the fifty-two districts, was the fruit of his victories. Of these victories nothing is recorded, and little mentioned by the people.

He built the fortress of *Chouragurh*, which from the brow of the range of hills that form its southern boundary, still overlooks the valley of the *Nerbudda*, near the town of *Gururwara*, and the

source of the *Sukur* river. He continued himself to reside in the palace of *MUDUN MOHUL*, a part of which still stands on the hill near *Gurha*, and overlooks the great reservoir and temple in which he is believed to have offered up to the god of truth so agreeable a sacrifice in the blood of a base assassin.

He was succeeded by his son *DULPUT SA'*, who removed the seat of government from *Gurha* to the fortress of *Singolegurh*, which is situated on the brow of a hill that commands a pass on the road about half-way between *Gurha* and *Saugor*. This fortress is of immense extent, and was built by rája *BELO*, a prince of the *Chundele Rajpoot* tribe, who reigned over that country before it was added to the *Gurha Mundala* dominions; but it was greatly improved on being made again the seat of government.

Overtures had been made for an union between *DULPUT SÁ* and *DURGHOUTEE*, the daughter of the rája of *Mohoba*, who was much celebrated for her singular beauty; but the proposal was rejected on the ground of a previous engagement, and some inferiority of caste on the part of the *Gurha* family\*. *DULPUT SÁ* was a man of uncommonly fine appearance, and this, added to the celebrity of his father's name and extent of his dominion, made *DURGHOUTEE* as desirous as himself for the union; but he was by her given to understand, that she must be relinquished or taken by force, since the difference of caste would of itself be otherwise an insurmountable obstacle. He marched with all the troops he could assemble,—met those of her father and his rival,—gained a victory, and brought off *DURGHOUTEE* as the prize to the fort of *Singolegurh*.

He died about four years after their marriage leaving a son *BEER NARAIN* about three years of age, and his widow as regent during his minority; and of all the sovereigns of this dynasty, she lives most in the page of history, and the grateful recollections of the people. She formed the great reservoir which lies close to *Jabulpore*, and about a mile from *Gurha*, and is called after her "*Ranee tal*," or queen's pond. One of her slave women formed the other that lies close by, and is called after her "*Cheree tal*," or slave's pond. Tradition says that she

\* The *Mohoba* family were *Chundele Rajpoots*, and their dominion had extended over *Singolegurh* as above stated, and also over *Behree* or the district of *Kanoja* in which it is comprised.

The capital of *Behree* was *Kondulpore*, three miles west from the town of *Behree*. There is a stone inscribed by rája *MULUN DEO* on the dedication of a temple at *Kondulpore* dated *Samvat*, 815, A. D. 758. He was one of the *Chundele rajas*.

requested her mistress to allow the people employed on the large tank, to take out of the small one, one load every evening before they closed their day's labour; and that the Cheree tal was entirely formed in this manner. Her minister, ADHUR, formed the great tank about three miles from *Jabulpore*, on the *Mirzapore* road, which is still called after him, Adhar tal; and gives name to the village in which it is situated. Many other highly useful works were formed by her about *Gurha*; and some at *Mundala* where she kept her stud of elephants, which is said by Muhammedan historians to have amounted to fourteen hundred, a number not altogether incredible when we consider the taste of the people for establishments of this sort; the fertility and extent of the country over which she ruled; and the magnitude of the works which were executed by her during the fifteen years of her regency.

ADHUR was her chief financial minister, but was for some time employed as her ambassador at *Delhi*; but he was unable to prevent the invasion and conquest of his mistress' dominions. ASUF KHÂN, the imperial viceroy at *Kurha Manickpore* on the *Ganges*, invited by the prospect of appropriating so fine a country and so much wealth as she was reputed to possess, invaded her dominions in the year 1564, at the head of six thousand cavalry, and twelve thousand well-disciplined infantry, with a train of artillery.

He was met by the queen regent at the head of her troops near the fort of *Singolegurh*, and an action took place in which she was defeated. Unwilling to stand a seige she retired after the action upon *Gurha*; and finding herself closely pressed by the enemy she continued her retreat among the hills towards *Mundala*; and took up a very favorable position in a narrow defile about twelve miles east of *Gurha*. ASUF's artillery could not keep pace with him in the pursuit, and attempting the pass without it he was repulsed with great loss. The attack was renewed the next day, when the artillery had come up. The queen advanced herself on an elephant to the entrance of the pass, and was bravely supported by her troops in her attempt to defend it; but the enemy had brought up his artillery which opening upon her followers in the narrow defile made great havock among them, and compelled them to give way. She received a wound from an arrow in the eye; and her only son, then about eighteen years of age, was severely wounded and taken to the rear. DURGHOUTEE in attempting to wrench the arrow from her eye broke it, and left the barb in the wound; but notwithstanding the agony she suffered she still refused to retire, knowing that all her hopes rested on her being



able to keep her position in the defile, till her troops could recover from the shock of the first discharges of artillery, and the supposed death of the young prince, for by one of those extraordinary coincidences of circumstances which are by the vulgar taken for miracles, the river in the rear of her position, which had during the night been nearly dry, began to rise the moment the action commenced, and when she received her wound was reported unfordable. She saw that her troops had no alternative but to force back the enemy through the pass or perish, since it would be almost impossible for any of them to escape over this mountain torrent under the mouths of their cannon; and consequently, that her plan of retreat upon *Mundala* was entirely frustrated by this unhappy accident of the unseasonable rise of the river.

Her elephant-driver repeatedly urged her in vain to allow him to attempt the ford, "no" replied the queen "I will either die here or force the enemy back," at this moment she received an arrow in the neck; and seeing her troops give way and the enemy closing around her, she snatched a dagger from the driver and plunged it in her own bosom.

She was interred at the place where she fell, and on her tomb to this day the passing stranger thinks it necessary to place as a votive offering, one of the fairest he can find of those beautiful specimens of white crystal, in which the hills in this quarter abound. Two rocks lie by her side which are supposed by the people to be her drums converted into stone; and strange stories are told of their being still occasionally heard to sound in the stillness of the night by the people of the nearest villages. Manifest signs of the carnage of that day are exhibited in the rude tombs which cover all the ground from that of the queen all the way back to the bed of the river, whose unseasonable rise prevented her retreat upon the garrison of *Mundala*.

Her son had been taken off the field, and was, unperceived by the enemy conveyed back to the palace at *Chouragurh*\*, to which *Asur*, returned immediately after his victory and laid siege. The young prince was killed in the siege; and the women set fire to the place under the apprehension of suffering dishonor if they fell alive into the hands of the enemy. Two females are said to have escaped, the sister of the queen, and a young princess who had been betrothed to

\* *Chouragurh*, a fort which overlooks the valley of the *Nerbudda* from the brow of the southern or *Satpora* range of hills, about seventy miles west from *Jabulpore*.

the young prince BEER NARAIN ; and these two are said to have been sent to the emperor AKBER.

ASUF acquired an immense booty. Besides a vast treasure, out of the fourteen hundred elephants which is said to have composed the queen's own stud, above one thousand fell into his hands, and all the other establishments of which his conquest had made him master were upon a similar scale of magnificence\*. With a soil naturally fertile and highly cultivated the valley abounded with great and useful works : and ASUF, naturally of an ambitious spirit, resolved to establish in *Gurha* an independent Muhammedan sovereignty, like those of *Malwa*, *Guzerat* and *Dukhun* ; and under a weaker monarch than AKBER he would, no doubt, have succeeded. After a struggle of a few years he returned to his allegiance, was pardoned, and restored to his government of *Kurha Manickpore*.

On ASUF's departure, CHOORAMUN BAJPAE, the minister and reputed lineal descendant of the spiritual guide of the founder of this dynasty, was sent to the court of AKBER, to solicit a recognition of the claim of CHUNDER SA', the brother of DULPUT SA', to the throne of *Gurha*. This family had immediately after the marriage of DURGHOUTEE been invested with the title of BAJPAE. The ceremonies were performed on the bank of the *Nerbudda* river, in a temple in the village of *Gopalpore* near the *Tilwara* ford, and are said to have cost four hundred thousand rupees. This agent attained the object of his mission, and CHUNDER SA' was declared rājā of *Gurha Mundala* ; but he was obliged to cede to the emperor, the ten districts which afterwards formed the principality of *Bhopaul*, viz. : *Gonour*, *Baree*, *Chokeegurh*, *Rahtgurh*, *Mukurhae*, *Karoo Bag*, *Karwae*, *Raeseyn*, *Bhowrasoo*, *Bhopaul*.

Of CHUNDER SA's reign little is known, and that little of no importance†. On his death he was succeeded by his second son, MUDKUR SA', who treacherously put his elder brother to death. He was the first prince of this house that proceeded to the imperial court to pay his respects in person : and he did so ostensibly with a view to appease the emperor by the voluntary surrender of his person, but virtually for the purpose of securing the support of his name against the vengeance of the people. But the vengeance of heaven is supposed by them to have overtaken him.

\* Among other things taken in *Chouragurh* were one hundred jars of gold coins of the reign of ALLAH-UDDEEN, the first Mahommadan general that crossed the *Nerbudda* river. See BRIGG's translation of *Ferishta*. Some of those coins are still worn by the women of *Gurha* as charms.

† During the life of DURGHOUTEE and his nephew he resided at *Chanda* ; and is said to have entered into the service of the prince of that country.

He became afflicted with chronic pains in his head and limbs, which he was persuaded were inflicted on him by Providence for his crime. The disease was pronounced incurable; and, as the only means of appeasing a justly incensed deity, he was recommended to offer himself up as a voluntary sacrifice, by burning himself in the trunk of a dry peepul tree. An old one sufficiently dry for his purpose being found in the village of *Deogaw*, about twelve miles from *Mundala*, he caused himself to be shut up and burnt in it; and the merit of the sacrifice is considered to have been enhanced by the sacred character of the tree, sacred to *SIVA*, in which it was made. His eldest son, *PREM NARAIN* had been in attendance upon the emperor at *Delhi*, but he returned to the *Nerbudda* on receiving intelligence of his father's death, leaving his son *HIRDEE SA'* to represent him at the imperial court. Unfortunately, in his haste, he omitted, it is said to return the visit of *BEER SINGH DEO*, rája of *Archá*, before he left court; and that proud prince on his death-bed shortly after is said to have made his son, *JHOOJHAR SINGH*, swear to revenge the insult by the invasion and conquest of *Gurha*, or perish.

He soon after marched at the head of all the troops he could muster, and *PREM NARAIN* finding himself unable to oppose him in the field, threw himself into the fort of *Chouragurh*, where he was for some months closely besieged. *JHOOJHAR* pretended at last to raise the siege. He drew off his troops, and descended into the plains, where he invited *PREM NARAIN* to come and adjust with him in person the terms of peace. He was prevailed upon to do so on the faith of a solemn oath; and accompanied by his minister, *JEYDEO BAJPAE*, proceeded to the tent of his enemy, where they were treacherously murdered by assassins hired for the purpose. He again invested the fort, which having no head soon surrendered; and all the other garrisons in the *Gurha* dominions followed the example.

News of this invasion and of the death of his father was soon conveyed to *HIRDEE SA'*, then in attendance upon the emperor at *Delhi*. He left court, and unable to procure any assistance in troops, returned in disguise to the *Nerbudda*. Near the fortress of *Chouragurh* he is said to have met his old nurse; and, on being recognised by her, was told where his father had deposited a large sum of money, which, with her assistance, he got into his possession. He then made himself known to many of the most powerful and influential landholders of the country, who brought all their followers to his support; and with their aid, added to that of the Muhammadan chief of the ten ceded districts of *Bhopal*, he soon made head against the enemy; possess-

ed himself of all the twenty-two military posts of his kingdom ; and at last ventured to come to a general action with him near the village of *Koluree*, in the district of *Nursingpore*. JHOOJHAR SINGH was defeated and killed ; and the fortress of *Chouragurh* was surrendered immediately after the action, which was fought within sight of the walls.

In return for the services rendered by the chief of *Bhopal*, HIRDEE SÁ assigned the district of *Opudgurh*, containing three hundred villages. He sent back the widow and family of JHOOJHAR SINGH to *Bundelkhund*, by which he is said to have won so much upon the esteem and gratitude of the members of this family and the people of *Bundelkhund* in general, that they made a solemn vow never again to invade his dominions.

It may here be remarked that JHOOJHAR SINGH had two brothers, DEWAN HURDOUR, alias HURDOUR LALA, and PUHAR SINGH ; that the former is said to have been poisoned by one or other of his brother's wives ; and that when the cholera morbus broke out in the valley of the *Nerbudda* for the first time in 1817, when occupied by our troops, it was supposed to have been occasioned by the spirit of this HURDOUR LALA, descending into the valley in the north wind blowing down from the territories of *Bundelkhund*. It first broke out I believe among the troops while they were stationed on the plain between the garrison of *Chouragurh* and the village of *Koluree*, the place where the action was fought, and it is said to have begun its ravages while the north winds prevailed. These circumstances added to that of HURDOUR LALA's having always been propitiated by some offering or prayer, whenever a number of people were congregated together for whatever purpose, lest he should introduce discord or evil of some kind or other among them, made it believed that he was the source of this dreadful scourge ; for the custom of propitiating him was entirely local, and our troops had disregarded, or indeed had perhaps never heard of the necessity. From that day small rude altars were erected to HURDOUR LALA in every part of the valley, surrounded by red flags erected on bamboos, and attended by prostrated thousands ; and from the moment a case of cholera morbus occurs, every native inhabitant of this valley, whatever be his religion, rank or sect, deprecates the wrath of HURDOUR LALA\*.

\* It is said that one of Lord HASTING's camp-followers slaughtered a bullock near the tomb, and that the cholera broke out in consequence ; that after many thousands had perished, one man afflicted with the disease thought of HURDOUR LALA, and vowed an offering to him if he recovered. He got well, and built a temple to him ; others did the same, and the disease ceased. From

HIRDEE SA', now secure in the possession of his dominions, turned his attention to the improvement of the country, which had suffered much from the ravages of war, and the internal disorders introduced by these revolutions of government. He planted many groves. Among the former, the grove in which the cantonments of *Jubulpore* now stand, was the largest; and it is said to have contained, as its name *Lakheree* imports, one hundred thousand mango trees. The greater part of these have gone to decay, or been cut down; and some thousands of them have been felled since we took possession of the country. Among the reservoirs that he formed, the largest was *Gunga Saugor*, a fine piece of water in the vicinity of the town of *Gurha*. He died at a very advanced age, after a reign of seventy-one years, dating from the death of his father, PREM NARAIN; and was succeeded by his son CHUTTER SA'. The inscription on the stone at *Ramnugur* bears date *Samvat* 1724, and was made in HIRDEE SA''s reign, which commenced it is said in *Samvat* 1653, A. D. 1596, so that he must have reigned seventy-one years, even supposing that he died immediately after it was made.

His second son, HUREE SINGH, demanded of his elder brother a division of the territories: but he was soon reduced to obedience: and during the life of CHUTTER SA' remained afterwards quiet upon his jageer. CHUTTER SA' died after a reign of only seven years: and was succeeded by his son KESUREE SINGH; but HUREE SINGH, thinking the occasion favorable for his ambitious views, and failing in his attempt to get himself proclaimed as successor to his brother, invited to his assistance the rája of *Bundelkhund*. With this support he made an attack upon his nephew; and getting possession of his person he treacherously put him to death after he had reigned three years.

KESUREE SA' had a son, NERIND SA', then about seven years of age, whom RAMKISHUN BAJPAE, the son of KAMDEO, who had accompanied HIRDEE SA', in his attendance upon the emperor, and shared in his subsequent fortunes, rescued from HUREE SINGH, took to *Ramnugur*, near *Mandala*, and there caused him to be proclaimed as rightful sovereign. Collecting a strong force of the better disposed people, he returned, defeated and killed HUREE SINGH in an action, and drove his son, PUHAR SINGH, with all his troops from the field. An agent was sent off to the imperial court, to demand the emperor's sanction to his accession to the throne; and five districts were assigned to the emperor on the occasion, *Dhumonee*, *Huttah*, *Mureeah Deh*, *Gurha Kotah*, and *Shahgurh*.

that time temples have spread through almost every village in India to HUROUR LALA.

PUHAR SINGH was a brave and enterprising man ; and finding no prospect of making head against the young prince for the present, he led off his followers, and joined the army of the emperor AURUNGZEBE then employed in the siege of *Beejapore*\* and served under the command of DILERE KHAN, where he had frequent opportunities of distinguishing himself ; and the general was so much pleased with his services that after the fall of *Beejapore* he sent with him a body of troops under the command of MEER JYNA and MEER MANOOLLAH, to assist in his attempts upon *Mundala*. He was met by the young prince, his cousin, near the banks of the *Doodhee* river at *Fut-tehpore*, where an action took place, in which NERIND SA' was defeated, and his general killed.

He retired upon *Mundala* accompanied by RAMKISHUN, the faithful minister who had secured him from the father of PUHAR SINGH. Not feeling himself secure at *Mundala* he proceeded to *Sohagpore*, where he collected around him his scattered forces, and became again able to face his cousin in the field, as the troops which the Moghul general had sent to assist him, were returned to the *Dukhun*. They came to an action near the village of *Ketoogow*, where PUHAR SINGH was defeated and killed. On the death of their leader all his troops dispersed, or entered into the service of the victor ; who returned to *Mundala*, and thenceforward made that place the seat of his government.

PUHAR SINGH had two sons in the action who fled from the field as soon as they saw the troops give way after their father's death ; and returned to the imperial camp, in the hope of obtaining further assistance. Every other endeavour to interest the emperor in their fortunes proving fruitless, they at last, stimulated by the desire to revenge their father's death, and to acquire the sovereignty of the *Gurha* dominions, renounced their religion for that of *Islam*, and obtained the support of a small body of troops with which they returned to the valley of the *Nerbudda*, under the acquired names of ABDOR RUHMAN, and ABDOL HAJEE. They were to have been joined by a *Murhutta* force under GUNGA JEE Pundit ; and NERIND SINGH, distrustful of his strength, sent an agent to endeavour to bring his two cousins to terms before this force should join.

This agent they put into confinement, under the pretence that he was serving a rebel against their legitimate authority, but he soon effected his escape ; and, being well acquainted with the character of the *Murhutta* partisans, proceeded immediately to their camp, and by

\* *Beejapore* surrendered to the emperor AURUNGZEBE, 15th October, 1686.

the promise of a larger sum of money than the commandant expected from the young apostates, prevailed upon GUNGA JEE to join his force to that of his master, strengthened by this body of marauders, NERIND SINGH ventured a general action, in which his cousins were defeated and both killed.

His authority was now undisputed, but these frequent attempts of his relations cost him a great part of his dominions, as he was obliged to purchase the aid of neighbouring princes by territorial cessions. In this last contest with his cousins he was ably assisted by two Pathan feudatories, AZIM KHAN, who held in *jageer*, *Barha*, a part of the *Futtehpore* district (14), and LONDEE KHAN, who held the district of *Chouree* (19). Taking advantage of these disorders and of the weakness of their prince they attempted to establish an independent authority over all the territories south of the *Nerbudda*. The prince invited to his support the celebrated BUKHT BULUND, rája of *Deogurh*; and with their united force defeated the two Pathan rebels, and killed LONDEE KHAN at *Seanee*, in the district of *Chouree*, and AZIM KHAN, near the village of *Koleree*, in the valley of the *Nerbudda*. For this assistance NERIND SA' assigned to BUKHT BULUND the districts of *Chouree* (19), *Donger Tal* (20), and *Goonsour* (18).

During these struggles he is said to have assigned to CHUTTER SAUL, rája of *Bundelkhund*, the five districts of *Gurpehra* (34), *Dumoh* (35), *Rehlee* (36), *Etawa* (37), and *Khimlassa* (38), which afterwards formed the province of *Saugor*. Two districts, *Powae* (27), and *Shanugur* (29), had before been assigned to the chief of *Bundelkhund*. He was obliged to assign to the emperor, it is said, for a recognition of his title, the five districts of *Dhumonee* (29), *Huttah* (30), *Mureea Deh* (31), *Gurhakota* (32), *Shahgur* (33)\*. He also assigned *Purtabgurh* (10) in *jageer* to GHAZEE RAE LODHEE, who had served him faithfully and bravely in the contest with PUHAR SINGH and his sons.

NERIND SA' died after a reign it is said of forty years, A. D. 1731†, leaving to his son MAHRAJ SA', only twenty-nine of the fifty-two districts which had composed the *Gurha Mundala* dominions under his ancestor, SUNGRAM SA'. After a peaceful reign of eleven years, MAHRAJ SA''s dominions were invaded by the Peshwa for the purpose of levying the tribute which it was impudently pretended that the *Sutarah* rája had granted to him the right to levy in all the territories north of the river *Nerbudda*. MAHRAJ SA' resisted his demand

\* These had been assigned before by NERIND SA' after the defeat of HUREE SINGH; and the cession was merely confirmed.

† It must have been 54 years.

and stood a siege in the fort of *Mundala*\*. It was soon taken and the prince put to death. He left two sons SEWRAJ SA' and NIZAM SA', and the eldest was put upon the throne by BAJEE RAO, on condition that he should pay four lakhs of rupees a year as the chout, or quarter of his public revenue, in tribute. By this dreadful invasion of the Peshwa with his host of freebooters, the whole country east of *Jubulpore*, was made waste and depopulate, became soon overgrown with jungle, and has never since recovered†. The revenue of the rájas, in consequence of this invasion, and the preceding contests for sovereignty between the different members of the family, and the cessions made to surrounding chiefs, was reduced to fourteen lakhs of rupees per annum.

Being unable to resist the encroachments of RAGHOOJEE GHOSLA, who had under the pretended authority of the *Sutarah* rája to collect the chout, assumed the government of *Deogurh* from the descendants of BUKHT BULUND, he lost the six districts which had anciently comprised the whole of the dominions of the *Haihaibunsee* sovereigns of *Lahnjee Kurwagurh* (21), *Shanjun Gurh* (22), *Lopa Gurh* (23), *Santa Gurh* (24), *Deeba Gurh* (25), *Banka Gurh* (26).

SEWRAJ SA' died at the age of thirty-two years, A. D. 1749, after a reign of seven years, and was succeeded by his son DOORJUN SA', a young lad of the most cruel and vicious dispositions. A great many of the principal people having been disgusted with numerous instances of his wickedness, his uncle, NIZAM SA', determined to avail himself of the opportunity, and to attempt to raise himself to the throne by his destruction. He recommended him to make a tour of inspection through his territories, and after much persuasion he was prevailed upon to leave *Mundala* for the purpose.

NIZAM SA' had successfully paid his court to BELAS KOOUR, the widow of his deceased brother, SEWRAJ SA', but not the mother of the reigning prince, who was by a second wife, and had prevailed upon her not only to consent to the destruction of DOORJUN SA', but to promote it by all the means in her power. She was a woman of great

\* This invasion of BALAJEE BAJEE RAO took place, A. D. 1742.—See DUFF'S History of the Muhruttus.

† It may be remarked that in districts so situated, the ravages of war and of internal misrule are repaired with more difficulty and delay than in others. In the first place, the air however salubrious while the districts are in cultivation, becomes noxious when they are allowed to run to jungle; and men are prevented from coming to fill up the void in the population. In the next, the new fields of tillage in such situations are preyed upon by the animals from the surrounding hills and jungles; and the men and cattle are destroyed by beasts of prey.



ambition, and during the lifetime of her husband had always had a great share in the administration of the government. She saw no prospect of being consulted by the young prince, but expected that NIZAM SA' would, if assisted by her in seizing the government, be almost entirely under her management. She, therefore, entered into his schemes, and urged the young prince to proceed on this tour of inspection, with a view of removing from the capital the troops, who were for the most part greatly attached to him, in this tour; but the day that the prince left *Mundala*, NIZAM SA' pretended that his feelings had been hurt by some neglect on the part of his nephew, and refused to move. This had been concerted between him and BELAS KOOUR, who now insisted that the prince ought to return, and, by conducting his uncle to camp in person, offer some reparation for his pretended neglect.

The unsuspecting youth, at the suggestion of his step-mother, returned to *Mundala* accompanied by only a few followers, and among them LUCHMUN PASBAN, a man of extraordinary strength and courage, who always attended him. They alighted at the door of NIZAM SA's house, and immediately entered the court; but before any other could follow, the door was closed upon them. LUCHMUN called out "Treason," seized the young prince by the waist, and attempted to throw him upon the wall of the court yard, which was about ten feet high; but in the act of doing it, he received, in his right side, a cut from the sabre of GOMAN, a follower of NIZAM SA'. This checked the effort, and the prince, unable to reach the top, fell inside: and before LUCHMUN could grasp his sword his right arm was severed from his body by a second cut from the sabre of GOMAN. Leaving him to be despatched by his, GOMAN's, father, LOKSA and his two brothers, whom NIZAM SA' had employed to assist him in this assassination, GOMAN, now made a cut at the forehead of the young prince, who staggered and fell lifeless against the door, which his followers were endeavouring in vain to force from the outside.

A shout from the inside "that NIZAM SA' was king," echoed from the partisans of BELAS KOOUR without, added to the general unpopularity of the young prince, completed the revolution; and all that remained was, to satisfy those who might be glad to avail themselves of the opportunity to invade the country under the pretence of punishing the regicides and usurper. An agent was immediately sent off to the Peshwa; as the paramount authority, and to pacify him the districts of *Pana Gurh* (50), *Deoree* (51), and *Gorjainur* (52), were assigned in lieu of the tribute which had been promised on the death of

MAHRAJ SÁ, and the accession of SEWRAJ SA'. These districts were subsequently formed into the five muhals of *Deoree*, *Tendookera*, *Chawurpata*, *Goor Jamur*, and *Nahir Mow*. When NIZAM SÁ, ascended the throne he was twenty-seven years of age; and the cruel and unpopular conduct of his nephew, during the short interval of six months that he reigned, added to his own fine person, affable manners, and great capacity for business, soon reconciled all classes of the people to his government. He turned his attention entirely to the improvement of his country, and the cultivation is said to have extended, and the population a good deal augmented, during his long reign.

NIZAM SA' died after a reign of twenty-seven years at *Gurha* in the year *Samvat*, 1833, A. D. 1776, leaving, as it was pretended, one child, a son, MIHPAL SINGH, then about one month old, and a recognition of his title to the succession was obtained from the chief of *Saugor*, acting ostensibly under the authority of the Peshwa.

About the year *Samvat*, 1790 or A. D. 1733 MUHAMMUDUN KHAN BUNGUSH was transferred from the government of *Allahabad* to that of *Malwa*; and he attempted the conquest of the districts of *Bundelkhund* from CHUTERSAL, an enterprising chief who availed himself of the disorders of the empire, and the absence of the imperial armies in the *Dukhun*, to put himself at the head of the discontented Hindu chiefs in that quarter, and form for himself a valuable independent principality. CHUTERSAL finding himself too weak to resist so powerful an enemy, invited the assistance of BAJEE RAO the Peshwa, who marched to his support at the head of a large body of cavalry, defeated BUNGUSH, and made him evacuate the whole of the territories he had invaded and seized. CHUTERSAL was so well pleased with the able support the Peshwa had given him in his utmost need, that he adopted him as a third son, and assigned over to him, as an immediate recompence, a garrison and territory in the vicinity of *Jhunsee*, worth above two hundred and twenty-five thousand rupees a year.

CHUTERSAL died in the year A. D. 1735, and the Peshwa sent his confidential agent GOBIND Pundit, to demand his share of the chief's dominions as the third son, so styled after the late contest. He met HIRDEE SA' and JUGUT RAJ, the two sons of the deceased chief, and obtained the cession of the districts of *Saugor*, *Gurpehra*, &c. &c. yielding an estimated annual revenue of about thirty-six lakhs of rupees. GOBIND Pundit remained in charge of these districts as *Mukusdar*, and transferred the seat of government from *Gurpehra* to *Saugor*, where he built a fortress and town upon the borders of a very handsome lake. He extended his conquests and authority over

other chiefs and districts to the eastward as far as *Culpee*; and repelled an attempt on the part of SHOOJA-OD DOULA, the nuwab wuzier of *Oude*, to wrest from him his newly acquired possessions in that quarter\*. An army which the nawub sent into *Bundelkhund*, under the command of MEER NAEM was defeated and driven back with great loss.

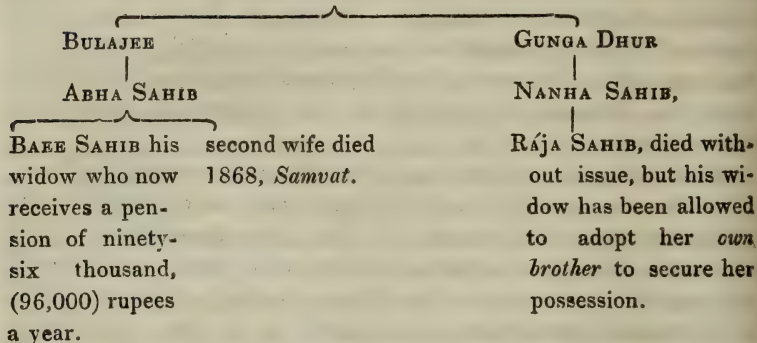
Having secured his dominions in *Bundelkhund* he returned to *Poona*, where he was received with all the respect and acknowledgments due to his highly important services. He returned to *Bundelkhund*, left his son-in-law BEESA JEE, as his representative at *Saugor*, and removed the seat of his government to *Culpee*. In the year *Samvat*, 1815, A. D. 1758, GOBIND Pundit accompanied SUDA SEO BHAO and BISWAS RAO, the son of the Peshwa, to *Delhi*; and in 1817 *Samvat* was killed on the plains of *Paneeput*, in an attempt to escort provisions to the troops immediately before the celebrated battle of that name, in which the brother and son of the Peshwa both lost their lives.

This disaster was nearly fatal to the *Murhutta* dominions in *Bundelkhund*. Their troops fled from *Culpee*, and the chiefs took advantage of the general consternation to regain their independence, and extend their possessions. BEESA JEE, with the assistance of JANOO GHOSLA, reduced them to obedience, and retained possession of all the districts placed under his charge. BULA JEE BABA, and GUNGA DHUR NANA, the two sons of GOBIND JEE, went to *Poona*; and were there invested with the government of *Bundelkhund*, in consideration of the merits and services of their father. BULA JEE was the governor, and GUNGA DHUR was to act as deputy under him. The former was so well pleased with the management of BEESA JEE, that he continued him in the government of *Saugor*; and proceeded himself, accompanied by GUNGA DHUR, to *Culpee*. BEESA JEE was soon after summoned by the governor of the fortress of *Mulhargurh*, to which rája RAM GOBIND on the part of RUGHONA, the pretender to the office of Peshwa, assisted by all the disaffected chiefs of the country, had laid siege. By the timely assistance afforded by BEESA JEE the seige was raised; and he was soon after engaged in the fruitless attempt to prevent the march through his territories of a British detachment under the command of Colonel GODDARD. See my account of GODDARD's march †.

\* See KHYR OD DEEN'S account of this invasion.

† Published in the Literary Gazette, 10th February, 1833.

## GOBIND PUNDIT



BEE SA JEE recognized in due form the right of MIHPAUL SINGH to succeed his father NIZAM SA' on the throne of *Mundala*; but the queen dowager, BELAS KOOUR, insisted upon placing on the throne the prince NURHUR SA', a young man of about twenty-five years of age and son of DHUN SINGH, the younger brother of NIZAM SA', and next heir to the throne. She, as the widow of SOORUJ SA', pretended to have a right to bestow the government as she pleased; and the usurpation of NIZAM SA' having been excused on this ground, many would have been found sufficiently willing to avail themselves of it, in order to raise themselves to wealth and consequence, had the birth and title of MIHPAUL SINGH not been at all questionable. The leaders of her party were SAUDUT KHAN the Pathan jageerdar of *Surrenugur*, and PRETHEE SINGH, jageerdar of *Petehra*. The leaders of the party of the young child were RUGBUNS BAJPAE, and his son MUKUND. His brother BIKRAM BAJPAE, and his son GUNGA PERSAUD, together with GUNEYS PASBAN, the treasurer.

The Dowager determined upon the destruction of the opposite party. SAUDUT KHAN invited to his house, which was situated outside the fort at *Mundala*, GUNEYS PASBAN, his sons GIRDHUR and NUNDHA, and his brother MORUT SINGH, on the pretence of making arrangement for an advance of pay to his troops; and GUNGA GIR Mohunt, a large banker went as guarantee to any agreements they might make with him. Soon after they had entered on business SAUDUT KHAN took GUNGA GIR aside on the pretence of wishing to speak with him in private\*; but the moment they left the room the assassins, who were placed around, and waited only for this signal, rushed in and fell upon the party. The two young men drew their swords and defended themselves and their father for some minutes;

\* GUNGA GIR is generally admitted to have been a party to this murder.

but overpowered at last by numbers, they all fell. SAUDUT KHAN went off immediately to the Dowager's palace within the fort ; and was directed to proceed immediately, surround the house of RUGBUNS BAJPAE and his family, and put them into confinement. He surrounded their house with a body of his troops, and summoned the old man to surrender. He refused, and the troops began to fire in at the windows, seeing no chance of escape without disgrace, the men put the women and children to death, set fire to the house, and then rushed out upon the assassins, making great slaughter among them till they all fell covered with wounds.

It was thought that of about one hundred and twenty-two members of which this family was composed, not one had escaped ; but it was afterwards found that PURSOTUM, the son of MOKUND BAJPAE, a lad of about nine years of age, had been taken away by his nurse in the midst of the confusion and carnage of the *Johur* ; as also that GUNGAPERSAUD, the son of BIKRAM BAJPAE, had been discovered still living among the wounded. These were concealed among the friends of the family for a month, when the ranee began to manifest feelings of regret at the massacre of this family, and of anxiety to discover some surviving member. The two survivors were brought to her, and she conferred upon PURSOTUM the purgana of *Suroulee* in jageer. It is now very generally believed that MIHPAUL SINGH was not the son of NIZAM SA' ; and that he was brought forward by RUGHBUNS BAJPAE, merely for the purpose of securing the continuance of his influence in the administration of the government.

NURHUR SA' having now been seated on the throne by the consent of both parties, another competitor made his appearance. SOMERE SA' was the illegitimate son of NIZAM SA' ; and in ordinary times such sons never pretended any claim to succeed to the throne while a legitimate son survived even in any collateral branch of the family. On the present occasion of a disputed succession, SOMERE SA' set up his pretensions, and invited the Murhutta chief of *Nagpore*, MONDAJEE, to his assistance. He marched to invade *Gurha Mundala*, but was met by the ministers of the dowager, and induced to return to *Nagpore* on a promise of three hundred and seventy-five thousand rupees. This agreement NURHUR SA' refused to ratify ; but SOMERE SA' had by this time gone off to solicit aid from *Saugor*.

BEESA JEE demanded an explanation from NURHUR SA', who sent an accredited agent to him ; but refused to attend to the suggestions of this agent, that he should purchase BEESA JEE's recognition of his title, and advance SOMERE SA' a sum of money, which might have been

effected for about four hundred and fifty thousand rupees ; and BEESA JEE marched at the head of a large force from his cantonments at *Dumow*. At *Teyjgur* he was opposed by CHUNDER HUNS, who held that purguna in jageer under the rája ; but he soon defeated him, and advanced into the valley as far as *Patun*, where he was opposed by SAUDUT KHAN, GUNGA GIR, and the jageerdar of *Mangur*, all of whom he soon dispersed, and advanced without further opposition to *Mundala*.

He deposed NURHUR SA', and put SOMERE SA' on the throne ; and removed SAUDUT KHAN, and GUNGA GIR Mohunt from all share in the government, appointing in their place, as prime minister, his brother DADOO Pundit, with the assignment of jageer of *Sureenagur*. The purguna of *Sehora* was assigned as a nuzurana to the Peshwa, and a fine of thirty hundred thousand rupees was imposed upon the government. In this fine however credit was given for thirteen hundred thousand rupees taken from the palace in money and jewels, a bond was drawn out for the payment of fourteen hundred thousand in ten years by ten equal instalments : and for the payment of three within a specified time. PURSOTUM BAJPAE and SEW GIR Gosaen were taken as hostages. BEESA JEE returned to *Jabulpore*, sent the greater part of his troops back to *Saugor*, and took up his residence at *Gurha*.

SOMERE SA' apprehensive that BELAS KOOUR would endeavour to get NURHUR SA' restored, and that the Murhutta would be easily persuaded to accede to her wishes with a view to promote their own interests by another change in the government, determined to make away with her. He left *Mundala* with the pretended intention of visiting *Jabulpore*, but from the first stage he sent back INCHA SINGH with a letter addressed to the dowager. He knew that she always heard every letter addressed to her read ; and that this would give the assassin an opportunity of despatching her. BELAS KOOUR came to the door to hear the letter read, and was instantly cut down by INCHA SINGH. BEESA JEE attributed the assassination to SOMERE SA', and made preparations to revenge it by removing him from the throne : he was not backward in preparations to defend himself. He was joined by SAUDUT KHAN of *Sureenagur* and CHUNDER HUNS ; and with these and other feudatory chiefs he advanced towards *Saugor*, in order to attack BEESA JEE before he should get into the valley. The two chiefs came to an action near *Mangur*. CHUNDER HUNS was killed early in the fight ; and his followers giving way threw into confusion those of SAUDUT KHAN, who retreated with great precipitation upon *Chouragurh*. SOMERE SA' made good his retreat to *Mundala*, and BEESA JEE advanced as

far as *Gurhā*, where he opened a negotiation with NURHUR SA', for his restoration to the throne on condition of GUNGA GIR becoming the security for the payment of the money due to him by the last treaty. Having prevailed upon SOMÈRE SA' to come from *Mundala* on the promise of a pardon, he seized him at *Tilwara ghat*, and sent him a close prisoner to *Saugor*, where he was confined in the fort of *Goor Jamur*. NURHUR SA' having agreed to BEESA JEE's terms, was taken to *Mundala* and put on the throne; but MORAJEE was left with a body of the *Saugor* troops in command of the garrison, and NURHUR SA' discovered that he was sovereign merely in name.

BEESA JEE returned to *Gurhā*: and, considering his authority to have been now securely established, he sent part of his troops back to *Saugor*, left the greater portion of what he retained at *Jubulpore*, and encamped with only a few followers about two miles distant, and close outside the city of *Gurhā*, to the west,

Taking advantage of his carelessness GUNGA GIR Mohunt collected together a body of five hundred Gosain horsemen; attacked him about midnight; put him, his brother DADOBA, and the greater part of their followers to the sword; and caused such a panic among the great body of his troops which were posted at *Jubulpore*, that they all made a precipitate retreat towards *Saugor*, with the exception of twelve Murhutta horsemen who entered the service of GUNGA GIR. Hearing of this successful attack upon BEESA JEE, the feudatory and other chiefs about *Mundala*, who were opposed to the *Saugor* rule, collected together round *Mundala*, and cut off MORAJEE's supplies. He knew that he could not stand a siege, and requested permission to retire with his troops unmolested to *Saugor*. With his small detachment he made good his retreat all the way to *Saugor*, where he soon made preparations to recover the country which had been lost by the imprudence of BEESA JEE, and to revenge his death. GUNGA GIR Mohunt was now joined by SAUDUT KHAN, who had been dispossessed of his jageer of *Sureenugur* by BEESA JEE; and they advanced to meet MOORA JEE so far as *Teyzeer*. Here an action took place; the troops of GUNGA GIR gave way on the first discharge of the artillery of MOORA JEE; and those of SAUDUT KHAN were thrown into confusion by the death of their leader, who was shot in the breast by one of the twelve Murhutta horsemen, who had entered their service after the attack upon BEESA JEE. His remains were buried upon the spot where he fell, and his tomb is still to be seen there.

GUNGA GIR with the deposed prince, NURHUR SA', whose cause he was supporting, fled precipitately from the field, the former towards

*Mundala* and the latter towards *Chouragurh*, in order to distract the attention, and divide the forces of MOORA JEE. He however knew his enemies too well, and pursued closely and incessantly the most formidable, GUNGA GIR, who was enabled to collect a few forces in passing by *Mundala* and *Ramgurh*, and to make a stand at *Bhurura*, near *Kombhee*, and on the bank of the *Heerun* river. Beaten here he retired upon *Chouragurh*, where the prince, NURHUR SA', had now been joined by a considerable force, which DEO GIR, the adopted son of GUNGA GIR, had brought from *Chundele*. Their force united at the village of *Singapore*, where they were again beaten by MOORA JEE; and obliged to take shelter in the fort of *Chouragurh*, which he immediately invested, and very soon took, as it is supposed, by the treachery of PUDUM SINGH, the jageerdar of *Delehree*.

NURHUR SA' was sent prisoner to the fort of *Korae* in the purgana of *Kimlassa*; and GUNGA GIR to *Saugor*, where he was soon after put to a cruel death by having his hands and legs tied together, and in this state being suspended to the neck of a camel, so that he might come in contact with the knee. The animal was driven about the streets of *Saugor*, with the Mohunt thus suspended to his neck, till he was dead. KURAMUT KHAN, was taken prisoner in the action of *Legzgur*, and sent to *Saugor* where he was ransomed for twelve thousand rupees by ADHUR OPUDEEA, in gratitude, it is said, for former acts of kindness. He returned to *Sureenagur*, but was soon after obliged to retire with his family, and take up his residence at *Chapura*. NURHUR SA' died in prison in the fort of *Korae* a few years after, *Samvat* 1846 or A. D. 1789.

SOMERE SA' was afterwards released and in 1861 *Samvat* or A. D. 1804, he was killed in an action which took place at *Kislæ*, between RUGHONATH ROW the subadar of *Deoree*, and LUCHMUN SINGH jageerdar of . He had taken the part of the latter of these chiefs in a contest for dominion.

[To be continued.]

#### Geography.

It would be difficult to convey any very precise idea of the boundaries of the *Gurha Mundala* dominions when most extended, by description, because they were not marked out by any very distant geographical lines, while those of a political character are either too little known or have been too often changed to afford any assistance. They comprised at the end of the reign of SUNGRAM SA', who died the year *Samvat* A. D. the following fifty-two *gurhs* or districts.



## No. of villages.

- 750 1 *Gurha*, or the territory lying between the rivers *Nerbudda*, *Heerun*, and *Gour*.
- 750 2 *Maroo Gur*, that lying east of the *Gour* river, and including *Mundala*.
- 750 3 *Puchele Gur*, that lying between the rivers *Burma* and *Mahanudee* now the purgana of *Kombee*.
- 350 4 *Singole Gurh*, that lying between the *Heerun* and the *Beerma* rivers.
- 760 5 *Amodah* bounded to the \_\_\_\_\_ by the *Soor* river, and to the \_\_\_\_\_ by *Kanaree*.
- 750 6 *Kanooja*, bounded to the \_\_\_\_\_ by the *Omur* river and to the north by the *Olonee* river the \_\_\_\_\_ by the village of *Kumarore* and including what is now the purgana of *Belehree*.
- 750 7 *Bugamara*.
- 750 8 *Teepagur*.
- 750 9 *Raegur*.
- 750 10 *Pertabgur*.
- 750 11 *Amurgur*.
- 350 12 *Deohur*.
- 360 13 *Patungur*.
- 750 14 *Futtahpore*, bounded to the east by the *Doodhee* river; the north by the *Nerbudda*; to the west by the village of *Turone*; and to the south extending into the hills.
- 750 15 *Numooagur* bounded to the west by the *Doodhee* river; the north by the *Shere*; and to the south extending into the hills.
- 360 16 *Bhowurgur*, bounded to the west by the *Shere*; the north by the *Nerbudda*; east by the *Deo* rivers; and to the south extending into the hills.
- 750 17 *Burgee*, bounded to the west by the *Deo* river; to the north by the *Nerbudda*; and west by the *Bungur*.
- 750 18 *Ghoonsour*, bounded to the \_\_\_\_\_ by the *Bangunga*; to the \_\_\_\_\_ by the *Thavur*.
- 360 19 *Chouree*, to the south by the *Punjdhar* river, now *Seonee*.
- 750 20 *Dougertal*, to the north bounded by the *Punjdhar*, and to the south by the *Soor* river.

} All now included in the *Ramgur* rája's estate.

} Assigned by  
NARIND SA, to  
BUKHTBULUND  
about A. D.  
1700.

- |        |   |   |  |
|--------|---|---|--|
| 750 21 | <i>Kurwagur.</i>  | } | These six districts comprised the ancient dominions of the <i>Haihaibunsi</i> sovereigns as of <i>Langee</i> . |
| 750 22 | <i>Jhunjungur.</i>  |   |  |
| 750 23 | <i>Lapagur.</i>   |   |  |
| 350 24 | <i>Soutagur.</i>  |   |  |
| 350 25 | <i>Deehagur.</i>  |   |  |
| 750 26 | <i>Bunkagur.</i>  |   |  |
| 750 27 | <i>Powae Kurheya.</i>   | } | Assigned to CHUTTER SAUL by HIRDEE SA'.  |
| 750 28 | <i>Shahnagur</i> , bounded to the south by the <i>Alonee</i> river; to the east by to the west by |   |  |
| 750 29 | <i>Dhumonee.</i>  | } | Said to have been assigned to the emperor by NARIND SA'.   |
| 750 30 | <i>Huttah.</i>  |   |  |
| 360 31 | <i>Mureea Deh.</i>  |   |  |
| 360 32 | <i>Gurha Kotah.</i>   |   |  |
| 750 33 | <i>Shahgur.</i>   |   |  |
| 360 34 | <i>Gurpehra.</i>  | } | Assigned to CHUTTER SAUL by NARIND SA'.  |
| 750 35 | <i>Domoa.</i>   |   |  |
| 360 36 | <i>Rehlee</i> , and <i>Rahngir.</i>   |   |  |
| 360 37 | <i>Etaæ.</i>  |   |  |
| 750 38 | <i>Khimlasa</i> and <i>Koræ.</i>  | } | Forming the province or division of <i>Gurpehra</i> , since called <i>Saugor</i> .                             |
| 750 39 | <i>Goonow.</i>  |   |  |
| 750 40 | <i>Baree.</i>   |   |  |
| 360 41 | <i>Choukeegur.</i>  |   |  |
| 360 42 | <i>Rahtgur.</i>   |   |  |
| 750 43 | <i>Mukurhae.</i>  |   |  |
| 750 44 | <i>Karoo Bagh.</i>  |   |  |
| 750 45 | <i>Koorwæ.</i>  |   |  |
| 360 46 | <i>Ræ Seyn.</i>   |   |  |
| 750 47 | <i>Bhowraso.</i>  |   |  |
| 360 48 | <i>Bhopaul.</i>   |   |  |
| 350 49 | <i>Opudgar</i> , subsequently added to the <i>Bhopaul</i> dominions.                              |   |  |
| 750 50 | <i>Punagur.</i>   |   |  |
| 750 51 | <i>Deoree.</i>  |   |  |
| 750 52 | <i>Gourjumur.</i>   |   |  |
|        |   | } | Subsequently formed into 5 <i>Muhals.</i>  |
|        |   |   |  |
|        |   |   | 2 <i>Tendoo Kera.</i>  |
|        |   |   | 3 <i>Chumurpurta.</i>  |
|        |   |   | 4 <i>Gour Jamur.</i>   |
|        |   |   | 5 <i>Nuhur Mow.</i>  |

The capital of the Gond rája had been *Gurha*; and this continued to be the residence of the Rajpoot princes up to the reign of DULPUT, who transferred his residence to *Singolegurh*. This fortress which is of immense extent, was built by a rája BELK, it is said, a prince of the *Chundele* Rajpoot tribe, who reigned over that part at some former period.

Another prince of that tribe is said to have reigned at *Belehree* over that part, which formed the district of *Kanooja*, or number six in this list.

The valley of *Jubeyra*, which now comprises several cultivated and peopled villages, was then a lake formed by a bund of about half a mile long, one hundred and fifty feet thick, and one hundred feet high, made with sandstone cut from the *Bhundere* range of hills close by. This *bund* is a curious work, and stands about four miles from the village of *Jubeyra*, to the southeast. It is said that it was cut through by the Mahommudun army in the invasion, but it seems to have burst of itself from the weight or overflowing of an unusual quantity of water ; and a branch of the *Beerme* river now flows through the middle of it. *Singolegur* once overlooked this magnificent lake. This however must have been insignificant compared with the lake which at the same time covered the *Tal* purguna, in the *Bhopaul* territory, on the site of which are now some seven hundred villages I believe. The bund which kept in this mass of water united two hills in the same manner as that near *Jubeyra* ; but was of greater magnitude and of more elegant construction.

Ranee DURGHOUTEE appears to have changed the seat of government partially though not altogether to *Chouragurh*, a fort which is situated on the brow of the *Sathpore* range of hills, and which overlooks the valley of the *Nerbudda*, about twenty miles from the station of *Nursingpore* ; for we find ASUF KHAN after her defeat and death marches to *Chouragurh*, and there finds her family and treasure. It is however probable that she merely sent them there for security on the approach of the invading army, as *Singolegur* was thought untenable, and lay in their direct line of march.

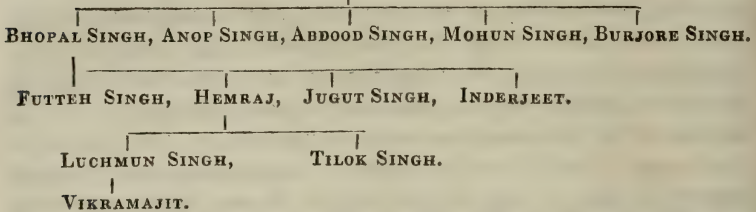
DURGHOUTEE'S son, BEER NARAIN, made *Gurha* his residence ; and it continued to be the capital till the reign of \_\_\_\_\_ when it was transferred to *Mundala*, which became the residence of his successors till the *Saugor* conquest, or usurpation in the year *Samvat* 1837, A. D. 1780. when *Jubulpore* became the seat of the local government, and has continued so ever since.

When the Rajpoot dynasty, if it may be so called, commenced in the person of JADOO RAE, the principality contained merely the district of *Gurha*, (No. 1,) which comprised seven hundred and fifty villages, and was bounded on the south by the *Nerbudda* ; the west and north by the *Heerun* ; and on the east by the *Gour* rivers. GOPAUL the tenth prince of that dynasty, extended his dominions over the districts of *Mandoogur*, (No. 2,) containing seven hundred and fifty villages. He built the town of *Gopaulpore*, and is said to have improved his country

greatly by rendering the roads secure to merchants and all kinds of travellers, whereas they had before been much infested by tigers, and other beasts of prey.

*Pedigree of SAH GUJEE RAI.*

SAH GUJEE RAI.



N. B. A list of the *Gurha Mundala* rajas derived from an inscription translated by Captain FELL in the 15th Vol. of As. Res. page 437, has 47 in lieu of 48 names to SANGRAMA SA'H whose SON VI'RANA'RA'YANA was killed in a battle with AKBER'S troops. That list terminates with the reigning monarch HRIDAYE'SWARA in A. D. 1667. It differs immaterially from the present list.

II.—*Account of the Ruins and Site of old Mandavi in Raepur, and legend of VIKRAMADITYA'S Son in Cutch. By Lieut. W. POSTANS, Bombay Engineers.*

On the edge of the creek (*khari*) which runs inland in a N. W. direction from *Mandavi* at the distance of about 2 miles from that *Bunder*, are to be traced the remains of a place of some extent called by the natives of the country *Raepur*, or *Old Mandavi*, (this last word signifies custom house.) They relate that *Raepur* was formerly the *Mandavi* of the Gulf of *Cutch*: the sea washed its walls and it carried on greater trade than *Mandavi* (or as it is styled in all official documents of the country) *Raepur* does at the present day. *Old Mandavi* is however now nothing more than a deserted and desolate spot, and with the exception of the foundations of its brick buildings, nothing remains to denote where a flourishing city is supposed to have once been. It is curious that the art of brick-making has either been lost or completely fallen into disuse, hence the natives use these ruins to provide bricks to assist in building the houses of neighbouring villages, and in digging for these the small copper coins have been found, which are known in *Cutch* as the \**Ghadira pice* from the im-

\* I annex a sketch of one of the most perfect impressions I have yet seen. I have in my possession 12 of these coins, some of which I found myself amongst the ruins of *Raepur*. The natives say they are often found after the rains when they are more easily distinguished from the stones, &c. which surround them, owing to the sand being whiter at that season—the antiquarian would no doubt be rewarded if he were to dig to some extent in this spot.